

KRUEGER-SCOTT MANSION CULTURAL CENTER

1999 Annual Report

In 1999, unlike previous years, my efforts to rally the human and financial resources to restore the interior of the Krueger-Scott Mansion proved to be a monumental challenge. I initiated meetings with the City's Engineering Department, representatives from the Newark Housing Authority and the architectural firm of Grad Associates. These meetings were designed to put into effect a plan of activities that would lead to the opening of the building's first floor. The plan never got past the meeting stage. I held strategic planning meetings for the members of the Mansion's non-profit board and met numerous times with members of the executive committee but our efforts to secure more support for the project were not successful. I sent out numerous proposals and letters of intent, but only two programming grants were funded.

The Center's programmatic initiatives remain favorable to the public and I was able to collaborate with several established cultural agencies in the City to present special events this year. Over the past six years, thousands of people have attended programs sponsored by the Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center. Although the funding was limited, the Center stretched its resources, totally or in part, to present the following staged productions for adults and children:

March 11- Black America on Stage: A Phoenix Ensemble production of *John Brown: Trumpet of Freedom*. (Co-sponsored by the Newark Public Library).

March 20- Black American on Stage: the African Globe TheatreWorks presents Lorraine Hansberry's award winning play, *Raisin in the Sun*. (Co-sponsored by the Newark Public Library).

March 22- "Kids' Time at the Theater" for Black American on Stage, the Phoenix Ensemble presented KEEP BANGIN', a new stage performance of the famed percussionists from the Broadway hit *Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk*. (Co sponsored by the Newark Public Library).

March 27- Black America on Stage: A Phoenix Ensemble production of *Blood Knot*, a Modern portrait of Brotherhood, set in apartheid South Africa. (Co-sponsored by the Newark Public Library).

April 25- *We've Got the Victory*, Stories, song and dance inspired by the Holy Bible. (Made possible by a block grant from the Essex County Parks Department).

On August 1st the Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center, Inc. was awarded a generous grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities in support of the Center's African-American Oral History Project. The grant, entitled *The Lost Years Recovered; Oral Histories of the African-American in Newark, NJ*, was awarded to cover

the cost of transcribing (30) thirty of the (140) one hundred forty interviews that have been conducted from 1995-99 by the Center's volunteers.

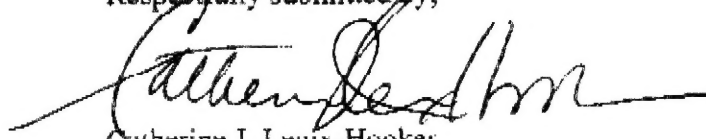
This primary documentation will be of value to the family members, researchers and scholars who seek to know those events and circumstances that shaped the lives of the African-Americans who matriculated throughout Newark from 1910-1970 and beyond. (A list of those selected for the first thirty transcriptions is attached).

For the fourth straight year, the Center received a grant award from the Essex County Arts Council to support public programs. However, I had to rescind this award since the Krueger-Scott Mansion project is to be continued by another agency in 2000.

A professional highlight for me was the opportunity to formally study nineteenth century history and culture. From the hundreds of persons interested in these subjects, worldwide, I was one of thirty people chosen to attend the Victorian Summer School in Newport, Rhode Island in June. During which, I gave a talk and slide presentation on the history of the Krueger-Scott Mansion and its restoration to my fellow classmates. As an alumnus of this school, I have attended Victorian related lectures, receptions and museums throughout the northeast and have spoken to numerous people about the City's work to restore the Mansion.

I remain encouraged that the project to restore the Krueger Mansion and develop it into a cultural icon to serve the needs of the citizens of this City will become a reality.

Respectfully submitted by,



Catherine J. Lemux-Hooker

21 January 2000

attachments- (2)

The Lost Years Recovered; Oral Histories of the African-Americans in Newark, NJ

Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center
1999 African American Oral History Report

The year 1999 could be summarized as having been "the best of times and the worst of times." For starters, the project got a gigantic boost when it was awarded a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities which is being used to pay for the cost of having (30) thirty transcriptions made from the audio taped interviews.

By the fall of 1999 we were able to select a transcriber through the resources of the Columbia University Oral History Department. We chose Margaret S. Montana from Sugarloaf Key, Florida. She is a transplanted New Jersey woman who came highly recommended and who has been a real jewel with whom to work.

The first ten of these interviews have been returned in transcription format, reviewed and are ready to be indexed. All transcriptions consist of a printed hard copy and a computer disk. The disk is important in that some of the proper names and streets have to be corrected and it always safer to have a back up files on any document like these, which can not be replaced.

An unfortunate aspect of the project this year related to the fact that the volunteers experienced insurmountable problems with potential participants. In some cases appointments were cancelled after participants read negative comments in the local newspaper about the Mansion's progress. Others drawbacks were due to illness and the fact that we lost a few from our ranks who had been very inactive over the past two years.

It was not until the September 5, 1999 when an article appeared in Sunday *New York Times* newspaper that renewed credence in the project was regained and some of the potential participants agreed to be interviewed.

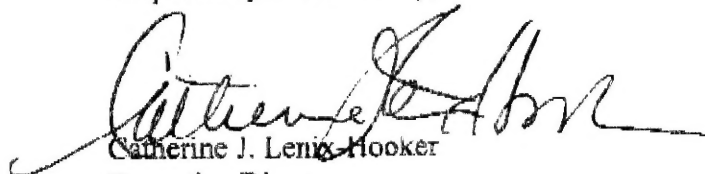
I did not want the project to end before we were able to balance our research by adding more blue-collar workers to the ranks of those whom had been interviewed. We sought and got longshoremen, clerical workers and domestic workers. Our ranks were swelled with doctors, lawyers, ministers, politicians and teachers, but we really sort to flush out the stories of the everyday citizen in Newark from 1910-1970.

As we move into the year 2000, we look forward to completing (50) fifty more taped interviews and raise the funds needed to complete the transcriptions of all of our tapes. Further, the third phase of this project is to have the transcripts indexed and we plan to train volunteers to do this work.

I have nothing but the greatest respect for the project coordinator, Mageline E. Little, for her steadfastness in working with the volunteers to insure the quality of the program and for her efforts to recruit new volunteers. She remains committed to the project and is working diligently with the transcriber to complete the dictates of the grant agreement with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

As a result of our efforts, we can look back with pride and know that the countless family members and scholars of the future will gain insight on the true picture of the life and times of the residents of Newark, New Jersey in the 20th Century.

Respectfully submitted by,



Catherine J. Lenix Hooker
Executive Director
December 14, 1999

KRUEGER - SCOTT CULTURAL CENTER

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

NEWARK, N.J.

TAPES FOR TRANSCRIPTION - Nov. 18, 1999

NAME	HOURS	OCCUPATION
Franklin Banks	2	Mortician
Pearl Beatty	2	Housing Admin.
Willie Bradwell	3	Factory Worker
George Branch	2	Newark City Council
James E. Churchman	3	Mortician
Joseph Clark	1	Educator/Admin.
Edward Crawford	3	Probation Officer
Mildred Crump	3	Educator/Politician
Louise Epperson	2	Comm/Political Activist
Willie Belle Hooper	4	Teacher/Comm. Activist
Queen Esther James	3	Beautician
Sharpe James	3	Mayor, Newark, N.J.
Jessie Johnson	3	Teacher/Music
Coyt L. Jones	1	Postal Worker
James "Chop" Jones	2	Musician
Edward Keer	3	Cab driver/Policeman
Wynona Lipman	3	Teacher/State Senator
Ronald Marshall	2	Medical Doctor
Lemora Means	1	Clerk/Federal Govt.
Remay Pearce	2	Beautician
Hortense Powell	4	Nurse
Robert "Bob" Queen	2	Journalist
James A. Scott	2	Minister/Teacher
Edna Thomas	2	Community Activist
Eugene Thomas	1	Lawyer
James Wallace	2	Youth Director
Andrew Washington	1	Teacher
Franotie A. Washington	2	Art Educator
Owen Wikerson	5	Admin. - City Govt.
A. Zachary Yamba	1	College President